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CPW Report No. 27 -- USSR

(Mar. 11 - 24, 1952)

#### SUMMARY

Technical unpreparedness in the light of the approaching sowing campaign is highlighted by most of the regional transmitters. All the official strictures about the continuing tractor breakdowns do not appear to have brought about any substantial improvement, since the admitted shortage of skilled mechanics and adequate repair facilities tends to keep machinery efficiency down. The recurring violations of "collective agreements" between collective farms and machine-tractor stations are officially attributed to a variety of causes, including "formalism," red tape, and insufficient Party control. It is safe to assume, however, that the lack of usable machinery accounts for the machine stations' inability to live up to their agreements. Progress at the large-scale irrigation projects in the Kazakh SSR, Rostov Oblast, and elsewhere, referred to as "the struggle for water," is said to be disappointing.

Political education of Party and Komsomol members, more rigid Party supervision of the country's economic activities, and vigorous leadership in general dominate the output on Party activities.

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## AGRICULTURE:

Smolensk and Dnepropetrovsk Bottlenecks: RABOCHIY PUT (Mar. 19) declares frankly that the Smolensk oblast machine-tractor stations will be in no shape to cope with the approaching plowing and sowing campaign unless they "repair all tractors, plows, seeders, cultivators, and harvesting machines ... in good time." So far, however, these repairs have been proceeding "very slowly" and the quality of the work is said to be uncertain. The paper also intimates that if last year's performance is any indication, many of the overhauled tractors "will soon go out of action and stand idle." The approaching "final decisive period," says the editorial, makes it imperative that all tractor mechanics and brigade leaders "be roused to speed up and improve the quality of repairs ...." A recent check on the work of the machine-tractor stations is reported to have revealed a variety of "serious shortcomings" which are to be eliminated not later than by the end of March:

Not all tractor brigades had been given their assignments and schedules for the movements of machines had not been drawn up ... there is a lack of spare parts. Tractor brigades are not fully supplied with trailing equipment. There is too little fuel and lubricants at the places where brigades work.

The same paper (Mar. 22) carries a resolution of the oblast Party and Executive Committees calling for an all-round improvement of agricultural work. Additional shortcomings, among them the lack of skilled personnel, are inferentially admitted in the remedial steps suggested in the resolution:

Particular attention must be paid this year to all-round improvement in the work of machine-tractor stations, ... to achieving a considerable increase in the productivity of machines .... It is necessary to complete the training of tractor drivers, tractor brigade heads, mechanics and other machine operators and of the masses of workers at kolkhozes and sovkhozes.

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Pursuing the subject on Mar. 23, RABOCHIY PUT notes the "serious lag" in the repair of tractors and tractor-drawn machinery which is permitted to continue. This lopsided performance of the machine-tractor stations is said to have adversely affected the delivery, cleaning, and exchange of seeds as well as the procurement and transport of local and mineral fertilizers. The Smolensk, Yelna, Monastyrshchina, Sychevka, and Savinki tractor pools are said to be the worst in the oblast but a poor job is also being done by a number of other (unnamed) stations. Implicitly referring to the lack of popularity of the above-mentioned Party resolution, the paper insists that the decision "be brought to the knowledge of every kolkhoznik, man and woman, agronomist and zoo-technician ...."

A summarized report from Dnepropetrovsk announces that the oblast machine-tractor stations are "not fulfilling" their collective agreements with the kolkhozes, and that failure is reflected in the low yields of agricultural crops. Failure, says the report, also characterized the performance of many machine-tractor stations last year. Neither the planned amount of seed nor the grain crops were gathered by the combine harvesters. Among the numerous reasons for this sorry state of affairs, according to the report, is "insufficient Party attention" to the training of qualified mechanics and other personnel. The livestock industry which is also serviced by the machine-tractor stations has, according to the report, been relegated to a secondary place. This is particularly true of Kotovskiy, Pyatekhatskiy, Krivorozhskiy, and Pokrovskiy Rayons, where the establishment of fodder bases was neglected and not yet begun this year. Tractor repairs for the spring sowing, the report concludes, have not yet been completed and with only a few days remaining before the start of spring field work, the situation looks more ominous than ever. "Idleness of tractors and other machines" must be eliminated and that elimination, it is suggested, could be facilitated by making the leaders of machine-tractor stations "responsible for carrying out their obligations" to the collective farms.

Tractors and machines in Dnepropetrovsk Oblast are often idle because of technical and organizational deficiencies, according to ZARYA (Mar. 19). Many tractor brigades are therefore failing to cope with their work norms while individual drivers are behind their shift quotas. Some machine-tractor stations have barely managed to repair one-quarter of their machinery for the spring sowing. Even the machinery in good working order is hampered by the lack of lubricants and fuel which "have not been stocked in time." The paper demands a "decisive improvement" in the work and in the attitude of the station managers:

How much are speeches of the machine-tractor station leaders in Kotovskiy, Shchorskiy, and other Rayons about the communal livestock worth if they work unsatisfactorily to create a basis for livestock development?

The sorry state of men and machines in Orel Oblast is discussed by ORLOVSKAYA PRAVDA on Mar. 16. Resolutions concerning the training of mechanics and machine operators, says the paper, have been issued "more than once" but they still remain on paper because the appropriate Party Committees did not bother about their implementation. Discussing machinery repairs, the paper is highly critical of the oblast Agriculture Administration which "issued hundreds of orders and instructions" but gave little thought to the construction of workshops at the machine-tractor stations. The Building and Fitting Office "has not built a single workshop in the past few years." The result is that 89 machine-tractor stations of the oblast do not have any standard repair facilities yet.

SOVIETSKAYA SIBIR (Mar. 22) reveals that in a number of rayons, particularly Andreyev and Kochkov, collective agreements between machine-tractor stations and collective farms are treated as a mere formality with little reference to the work and services to be performed by either party. A recent check-up disclosed that because the agreements were not "strictly adhered to" (strogo ne priderzhivavshisya), both the quantity and quality of work have deteriorated. In a previous editorial (Mar. 19), the same paper conceded that the task facing the tractor mechanics of the oblast "is not an easy one" in view of the general technical situation on the farms, but suggested intensified political

education of the workers "in the spirit of enthusiasm ... for their tasks" and large-scale Socialist competition as the only way of speeding up the work.

Deputy Minister of USSR Agriculture Budenny notes (Mar. 17) that the state of agricultural machinery being what it is, "a considerable part" of spring field work will be carried out by draft animals this year. He also bemoans the fact that "not much attention" is paid to that aspect of agricultural work in Tambov, Voronezh, Kostroma, Vologda, Kalinin, Gorky, and other oblasts. The Minister suggests the establishment of special horse camps with an adequate number of horses and oxen so that "last year's mistakes" may not be repeated. He does not elaborate on the "mistakes" beyond the assertion that the unsatisfactory use of draft animals resulted in the breakdown of certain aspects of the plan such as the delivery of fertilizer to the fields and others.

A summarized report from Velikie Luki (Mar. 16) tells of the "complete lack of care" about collective property exhibited in a number of rayons, and the improper use of collective farm funds. The initiation of action against the guilty ones is suggested but no further information is offered. A PSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA editorial (Mar. 23) speaks of the lack of cooperation between the machine-tractor stations and the collective farmers, and of lack of discipline in general:

We must see to it that the collective farm administrations ... take action against many people violating labor discipline .... It must be made clear to all collective farmers that further lagging behind in the preparation for sowing will have serious consequences.

Russian version:

Nado dobitsia togo, chtoby upravlenia kolkhozov ... prinimali mery v otnoshenii mnogikh ludey, narushayu-shchikh trudovuyu ditsiplinu .... Nado raz'yasnit' vsem kol-khoznikam, chto dalneyshee otstavanie v podgotovke ksevu sopryazheno s seryeznymi posledstviami.

"The Struggle For Water" is the topic of a KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA editorial discussion of Mar. 16. The irrigation of the vast expanses of dry land in Kazakhstan, says the paper, is just as important as agriculture itself. The reconstruction of the old irrigation system, however, is proceeding "too slowly" at a time when "literally every hour" (bukvalno kazhdiy chas) is of value. The new irrigation system, "limanovoye oroshenie," calls for the use of dammed up river water and, therefore, the construction of numerous dams according to plan. But far from encouraging this development, the paper complains, the authorities in some Kokchetav Oblast rayons "tend to constrict and limit this initiative." North Kazakhstan Oblast is said to "hold the last place in the Republic" in regard to irrigation development. The situation is not much better in South Kazakhstan, Dzhambul, and Kzyl Orda Oblasts where "up to now nothing has been done to water the fields and pastures ...."

Irrigation is also the subject of PRAVDA's discussion on Mar. 23. The paper declares that a number of areas "are doing badly" and that particularly serious shortcomings in irrigation work prevail in Rostov and Tambov Oblasts. None of the 20 scientific-research institutes of Rostov Oblast is offering much assistance to the collective farms, while lack of trained irrigation personnel resulted in the fact that less than half of the specified irrigation canals have been completed. In Tambov Oblast, even the preliminary surveying job which was to be completed in 1951 is still unfinished. Of the 255 spillway installations called for by the plan only 39 were completed.

The following are some of the other regional broadcasts reporting varying degrees of agricultural shortcomings:

Mar. 19--Potato cultivation in Odessa oblast as a whole is very unsatisfactory .... In a number of rayons including Syryayevskiy, Kominternovskiy, Krivoozerskiy, Frunzevskiy, and Ulyanovskiy the area planned for potatoes was not plowed. (CHERNOMORSKA KOMMUNA)

Mar. 21--Only underestimation of the importance of fertilization explains the fact that in Krivoy Rog Rayon insufficient attention is being paid to the provision of fertilizers. (MOLOT)

Mar. 23--Far from sufficient use was made of labor and material and technical reserves for increasing the harvest yields of grain and the productivity of stock and the development of auxiliary branches of kolkhoz production (Penza in Russian).

Fishing: The fishing industry, a target of frequent official attacks, is, according to MOLOT (Mar. 18), still in poor shape. Referring to the fishermen of the Don and Azov areas, the editorial says that the lack of their quantitative achievements is matched by the poor quality of their work which is characterized by "losses, a large percentage of waste, and mounting production costs".

Labor is badly organized and there are numerous cases of irrational utilization of fishing vessels .... Many fishing brigades do not have fishermen, storm-resistant nets, or other fishing equipment .... The building of canneries has not been started yet.

#### PARTY ACTIVITIES:

Stricter Party Control: Information on Party activities is diffuse in character, and most of the broadcasts deal with "better Party leadership" in general terms. As PRAVDA put it on Mar. 17, "Party organizations must keep their finger on the pulse of public opinion, and must wage a constant war on sluggishness ... stagnation" characteristic of a number of Party functionaries who "do not take their responsibilities seriously." Citing the Tartar Oblast Party as an example of lax supervision, the paper says that certain economic leaders are taking advantage of such inefficient control by "indulging in anti-State practices of padding their accounts, concealing goods and other material values" (dopuskayut antigosudarstvennuyu praktiku pripiski k otchetnosti, ukrytia ot ucheta tovarov i materialnykh tsennostey). Lack of discipline and sloppiness (nedistsiplinirovannost, raskhlyabannost) should be, according to PRAVDA, the chief target of Communist attacks. This is all the more important in view of the fact that many officials somehow manage to get away with these delinquencies.

Such officials invariably commit errors in their activities, willingly admit them and then proceed with a clear conscience to repeat them.

#### Russian version:

Takie rabotniki splosh i ryadom dopuskayut oshibki v svoey deyatel'nosti, okhotno priznayut ikh i zatem so spokojnoy sovestyu delayut ikh vnov.

Political education in the network of Party and Komsomol schools, independent studies of Marxism-Leninism, and intra-party propaganda activities continue to claim official attention. Actual evasion of political studies (uklonenie ot politucheby) is charged in a report from Saratov (Mar. 18). Although the number of independent and school students has greatly increased, there appears to be no improvement in the quality of the studies. Party education in general is still said to be revealing "substantial shortcomings." The same is true of the Smolensk Oblast Komsomol schools, according to RABOCHIY PUT (Mar. 18). The schools and study groups are "working on a low level" in Dorogobuzhskiy, Dukhovshchinskii, and Prochinkovskiy Rayons, while the independent Komsomol and non-Party students are left without any supervision at all.

That the attitude of the various Party and Komsomol organizations toward the acceptance of new members is somewhat less than enthusiastic has often been criticized by the regional press and radio. The situation may have been improved since but occasional reports saying that candidates for membership are often kept waiting until their cards expired are still heard on the regional transmitters. One of the reasons for the reluctance to accept new members is that each applicant (for Party candidacy or membership) must be endorsed by two Communists in good standing, and any misdemeanor on his part, even long after his initiation, is a reflection on his "guarantors" (poruchiteli). Another is the desire of the rank-and-file members to maintain their exclusive status by keeping the organization small. It is with this in mind that VELIKOLUKSKAYA PRAVDA (Mar. 23) urges all the Communists not to lose contact with the masses: "Party members should not fence themselves off (ne dolzhny ogorazhivatsia) from the non-Party masses."

KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA (Mar. 23) refers in disparaging terms to "a number of Party organizations" in the Republic which still maintain an "indifferent approach" to the acceptance of candidates into full Party membership. In Akmolinsk Oblast alone, it says, a great number of candidates have "overdue cards" (prosrochennye kartochki).

SOTSIALISTICHESKIY DONBAS (Mar. 21) wants to know why "a large number" of candidates are kept out of the Party long after their probation period in Yenakievo Town Party Committee as well as Andreyevskiy, Slavyanskiy, Konstantinovskiy, and other rayon organizations. A report from Stalino (Mar. 14) speaks of the weak leadership (slaboye rukovodstvo) of a certain unnamed Komsomol organization as regards the acceptance of new members into its ranks. The Bolshevik education of Party members and candidates "in the spirit of Party and State discipline" (v dukhe partiynoi i gosudarstvennoi distsipliny) is PRAVDA's definition of the current Party objective (Mar. 20). Daily political work among the masses is the "very first duty" (perveishaya obyazannost) of every Party leader, says the paper, but before this problem can be tackled the qualifications of the Party workers themselves must be raised.

The propagandist is the "pivot" (tsentralnaya figura) of Party education, says Donskoy in a long PRAVDA article (Mar. 19, not broadcast). After complementing the 48,000-strong army of Moscow propagandists in conventional terms, the author admits that not all of them are qualified to conduct their seminars on a "high theoretical-ideological" level. There are even some who are unworthy (nedostoynye) of that high calling. This is particularly evident in the Party organization of the Ministry for Building Materials Industry where the propagandists are far from equipped to discharge their duties. In the Ministries of Trade and Communications Means, for example, the so-called propagandists have resorted to the question-and-answer method of indoctrination, and are having their students memorize numerous figures, quotations, data, and so forth. The Moscow periodical MOSKOVSKIY PROPAGANDIST and the newspaper MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA and VECHERNAYA MOSKVA, whose duty it is to "educate" the propagandists, are, according to Donskoy, somewhat derelict in their duties: they must do considerably more (dolzhny delat znachitelno bolshe) to raise the qualifications of the propagandist cadres.

Miscellaneous: In a broadcast for youth on "Culture and Behavior" (Mar. 19), Filanovitch says that Communist morale and "the entire fabric of Soviet life" require complete harmony and no contradiction or dissension among youth, because dissension is "characteristic of bourgeois education." Soviet young men and women, he says, often besmirch their dignity by not paying sufficient attention to what they say and how they say it.

A TASS transmission to Europe (Mar. 19) quotes TRUD as asserting that the Moscow television transmissions are of the world's highest standard. While the limit of American television reception is still about 80 kilometers, Moscow transmissions can be seen in areas 200 kilometers away.

A Home Service report of Mar. 19 says that Prof. Klosovsky evolved a new method whereby the hitherto impossible detailed examination of the brain capillaries can be made. The professor is also said to have succeeded in determining both the quantity and diameter of the capillaries in a slide taken from the brain. His observations have enabled him to determine the various causes affecting the dilation and contraction of the capillaries.

A broadcast from Penza (Mar. 22) reports that Soviet designers have "invented methods" which have made it possible to determine the size and diameter of the atom. It is revealed that the size of a hydrogen atom is one-millionth of a millimeter. Methods have also been found for weighing the atoms, determining the mass of electrons, and so on. Soviet seismographs in Moscow, says the report, can register even the slightest earthquake on the Pacific islands. These Soviet scientific achievements are compared with the sinister nature of American technological attainments. As "revealed" at a recent Peking exhibition of "samples of American technology," U.S. secret agents had been found in possession of noiseless pistols, shooting fountain pens, poisonous fluids, rocket pistols, and others. American instrument makers are also said to be "creating torture machines" which are used in Greek torture chambers.